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DEVELOP NEW THERAPIES, MEDICINES

Syphilis Treatment

Prof N. S. Vedrov, one of the leading specialists in his field, has made his stand in favor of treating syphilis with a combined penicillin-fever therapy. He states that while some medicinal preparations like novarsenol and biquinole bring about a slight improvement in the condition, only the combined penicillin-fever therapy acts on the reticulo-endothelial system and brings about a complete cure. Professor Vedrov regrets that shortage of basic materials and lack of clinical data prevent him from making a final evaluation of his method. Moreover, he admits that he has not conducted any study on other factors, either endogenic or exogenic (such as nerve components, condition and function of internal organs etc.). Other scientists, among them Prof V. A. Rakhmanov, M. A. Rozental, S. Ye. Gorbovitskiy, A. M. Krichevskiy, and A. Ya. Prokopenchuk, have used penicillin along with other anti-syphilitic agents and collected data for a period of 3 - 5 years. They concluded that penicillin in no way inhibits the reticulo-endothelial system and actually prepares the patient for specific treatment. They agree with Vedrov that the combined therapeutic method results in a more positive cure with fewer relapse incidences.

All the scientists agree, however, that great care must be taken in giving penicillin because the antibiotic is not entirely constant in degree of spirochetocidity. Consequently they suggest that all penicillin for use in syphilis therapy be tested for its purity.

The Board of the Scientific Commission, Department of the Control of Skin and Venereal Diseases, Ministry of Public Health USSR, has resolved to introduce the above-described combined method on a wide scale.

Research on Phosphaturia

Phosphaturia is a disease which is difficult both to diagnose and treat. Frequently doctors have sent patients to the Caucasian mineral bath resorts, where they showed no improvement. Many specialists are of the opinion that

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this disease is not an independent disease, but rather the result of nervous disorders or damaged bone tissues. Other explanations are suggested, but all specialists agree that the disease does not indicate a purely mechanical excess of phosphorus in the urine, but actually demonstrates a grave pathologic condition of the urogenital, nervous, endocrinal, and other basic systems. As early as 1945 experiments were carried out with penicillin for treating this condition. Basically this therapy involves the changing of the alkali reaction into an acid reaction. It was determined that penicillin aided in the change of the reaction from alkali to acid. Tests were conducted in which aseptic as well as septic phosphaturia were treated by injections of penicillin in the amount of 200,000 units every 24 hours. Noticeable improvements occurred after the second injection. At present, standard practice for treating the aseptic form consists of 5-day course during which up to a million units of penicillin are administered. All the cases treated were examined periodically. No unfavorable reaction has ever been observed.

Dysentery Diagnosis

The Saratov Municipal Laboratory is now utilizing Prof F. G. Berngof's method of bacteriological diagnosis for dysentery. The use of typical absorbed agglutinating serums gives accurate results and permits the identification of such serological types of dysentery bacillus which cannot be identified by the ordinary agglutinating serums. The use of typical serums has great epidemiological significance, as it makes it possible, on the one hand, to establish a relationship between various diseases, or, on the other, to show the absence of such a relationship. Unfortunately, Berngof's method cannot be utilized too widely due to the critical shortage of basic materials which cannot be obtained either at the Moscow Institute imeni Mechnikov or the Leningrad Institute of Serums and Vaccines. However, due to the great advantages of his method, the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR is urged to exercise every means for obtaining sufficient quantities of these basic materials, particularly typical absorbed serums.

Develop Pneumonia Preventive

The authorities of the Therapeutic Department, Moscow Second Municipal Hospital, report satisfactory results from using "zhen'-zhen'" (ginseng ?) root extract for the treatment of various diseases which might possibly develop into pneumonia. It is particularly effective against pulmonary and cardiovascular disorders. Basic treatment consists of 30 to 40 minims administered three times a day for a period of 2 to 3 weeks.

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